

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following paragraph. The amendments to the paragraph are indicated by strikethrough and under lines.

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to and is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/237,969, filed January 27, 1999, and entitled “Interface Device and Method for Interfacing Instruments to Medical Procedure Simulation Systems,” and now U.S. Patent No. 6,929,481 issued on August 16, 2005. ~~and~~ It also claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/072,672, filed January 28, 1998 and entitled “Endoscopic Procedure Simulation System and Method”; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/105,661, ~~[[F]]~~ filed October 26, 1998 and entitled “Endoscopic Surgical Simulation System and Method Including Pivotal Entry Site”; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/116,545, filed January 21, 1999 and entitled “Endovascular Procedure Simulation System and Method”. The above-identified disclosures ~~in the above-mentioned patent applications~~ are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 6 line 31 with the following paragraph.

Another computer interface device for surgical simulation systems includes the ~~Immersion PROBE~~ IMMERSION PROBE produced by Immersion Corporation of Palo Alto, California. This interface device includes a pen-like stylus supported on a light-weight mechanical linkage having six degrees of freedom, and reports the position and orientation of the

stylus to a computer via a serial port interface. Sensors are disposed at the linkage joints and send spatial coordinates (i.e., X, Y, Z) and orientation (i.e., roll, pitch, yaw) of the stylus to the computer. However, this interface device does not resemble a common medical instrument and does not provide a manner to apply computer controlled force feedback to the interface device, thereby degrading realism of a simulation and reducing benefits of simulation training.